

Pease Farm Work - Cutting Ice In Family Diaries

[Compiled by Art Pease – 2107, 18]

Most of these items are from Dad's diaries, but there are a few from Grampa's, Grammy's, and Ma's. I know of no Pease diaries from 1953-57 and Ma mentions no ice cutting in 1951, but she only wrote about half the days in early 1951, so there could have been some on those days.

In the early years, they were likely making milk into cream and perhaps didn't need as much ice to cool it. It also seems that someone else was cutting and/or drawing the ice some years. I was surprised to see how much they cut and for how many people. I was also surprised to see that we used a lot, even after getting electricity in 1941 and then buying a milk tank, which I think was cooled by electricity. At least in the early years, they got the sawdust at Dewey's Chase's mill at the outlet of Lower Baker.

Francis says that in his memory, they always cut the ice on Upper Baker but Dad writes in 1946 about the ice being too thin on Lower Baker and they had to move to Upper Baker. Dad also writes specifically of cutting ice for Camp Pemi in 1947 but doesn't mention Pemi by name in other years. I think most times when he writes 'Camp', he means Moosilauke. There is a photo [see below] of ice cutting in 1936 in Camp Pemigewasset The First 100 Years, but I don't have a diary for that year!

Gerald says that the ice cutting at Lower Baker was off Pemi beach, and at Upper Baker off Moosilauke beach. They would go out 100 feet or so to begin cutting. The saw would leave 1" or less at the bottom of the cut.

There is no mention of ice cutting in Ma's 1951 or 1952 diaries, so I think Dad stopped cutting ice in the early 1950s.

The emails below from Vern McIntire and Lloyd Donnelly spurred me to compile these items. Thanks!

Email from Vern McIntire, 7/15/17: In regard to ice: I remember going to Fairlee, VT... taking 100 pounds blocks of manufactured ice off railroad box cars (the ice had distinctive split lines that could be split off for easier handling) and bringing it back to the farm and putting in a three sided structure next to the barn (without a roof) and covering it with sawdust...people would come and buy a chunk (that would fit in their ice box)....Check with Gerald to confirm.....

Email from Lloyd Donnelly, 7/16/17: I think you might be wrong on the 1941 date. I am very sure I remember ice being extracted and sawdust being cleaned off at your place. Sometime when I was 5 or so Dad started going to Lebanon to get 300 lb. blocks of ice. They had the score marks on them. We sold ice for people's coolers in the summer and Dad peddled ice around Lake Morey. He might have delivered ice for your ice house on occasion in the late 40s, early 50s.

Email from Christine Bunten, Re: the Bickford/Bunten place on Upper Street, 1/7/21: "There's an ice hole here on the property. It's under the floor in the front dining room of the restaurant. It's 8X8' square and 9 ft deep.. all dry pack stone walls."

1909 [Francis R. Pease]

1\1 Worked for Warren [Chase] Went to Wentworth and got a load of sawdust

1\2 Worked for Warren putting in ice

- 1\4 Putting in ice for Warren all day
- 1\5 Putting in ice for Warren in the AM
- 1\7 Plowed out some ice for Bowen in the AM

1\23\1914 East Orford *Warren News*
 •Everybody is busy cutting ice on upper Baker pond.

1915 [Francis R. Pease]

- 1\26 Went over to Fred Mack's got a sled drawing ice for Chester [*Pease*] afternoon
- 1\27 drawing ice all day I am putting in some with Chester

1916 [Francis R. Pease]

- 2\18 Helping Harry in the AM drawing ice for Henry [*Pease*] in the PM

1928

- 1\18 began on ice sharpened my horse's [*shoes*]
- 1\19 working on ice
- 1\20 working on ice went out and got Leslie
 [*No diary entries after 1\22*]

1932

- 1\21 drew 87 cakes of ice for Clark's
- 1\22 got my ice 158 cakes used all three horses

1933

- 1\28 Fillian drew my ice this afternoon

1934

- 2\12 cut my ice Jay helped cut 168 cakes
- 2\13 Leon helped draw my ice
- 12\28 Cutting ice and wood. Got 151 cakes ice today.
- 12\29 Finished my ice, 240 cakes.

1935

[Dad cut his ice this winter at the end of December, 1934 – see above.]

1937

- 1\1 Went over to the Higgins place this morn. Stopped to see when they would cut my ice, fixed up my ice house
- 1\2 Freeman [likely Wright] and Frank Pike drew my ice today 530 cakes
- 1\4 Freeman brought me up a load of sawdust
- 1\8 Went down and see Pug \$13.00 for cutting ice

1938 [Mabel S. Pease]

[I have no diary from Dad or Ma for 1938 and Grammy was in MA until January 30, so the only ice mentions are below]

- 1\30 Walter and Glenn got a load of sawdust
- 1\31 Walter and Glenn got more sawdust and covered up the ice

1939

[I don't know how they were cutting ice before this but year they have an 'ice rig', with a circular saw powered by an old Ford Model T engine, apparently owned by Walt Mack.]

- 1\6 Walter was over this p.m. Made a sled for ice rig
- 1\8 Walter was over worked on ice rig
- 1\15 Worked on ice rig
- 1\16 Worked on ice rig
- 1\17 began on ice 240 cakes
- 1\18 cutting ice
- 1\19 drew ice this p.m.
- 1\20 got ice this p.m.
- 1\21 got a load of sawdust this a.m. ice this p.m.
- 1\24 cutting ice
- 1\25 finished my ice
- 1\30 Got 3 load of sawdust covered ice
- 11\20 Cleaned out the ice house

1940

- 1\9 put up a pole out to the ice house went out to St. got Walter's engine *[Francis thinks the pole may have been to brace the ice house wall.]*
- 1\10 began ice put rig together a.m. 131 cakes this p.m.
- 1\11 On ice drew 148 cakes up to Clark's p.m. 75 cakes home
- 1\12 Got a load of sawdust Charlie got me a load too Got 35 cakes ice home Took 36 cakes ice for David
- 1\13 Took 110 cakes ice up to Clark got 81 cakes ice home
- 1\14 packed a little ice
- 1\16 got a load of sawdust for Clark
- 1\17 cut ice a little while a.m. got a load of sawdust for Clark p.m. Bert paid me \$18.00 for ice and \$3.15 for sawdust ice 250 cakes *[7.2 cents a cake]*
- 1\18 worked on ice Charles and Oscar helped me Charlie used his truck Got me a load over to Mack's
- 1\19 Put in Mack's ice Charles and Oscar helped
- 1\20 Put in Henry MacGinnis' ice one load for me took the engine home
- 1\22 Got 49 bags sawdust for Walter 122 bags for myself

1941

- 1\18 Got 125 cakes ice got a load of sawdust for Clark
- 1\20 Got a load of sawdust got 90 cakes of ice Had a flat tire
- 1\21 Went down helped clean off ice Got 186 cakes ice p.m. Oscar helped p.m.
- 1\22 Got 2 load ice and 3 load sawdust today Oscar helped all day

1942

- 1\17 Bob began drawing ice for Warren p.m.
- 1\19 Bob worked on ice 2 hrs a.m.
- 1\20 Bob worked on ice 2 hrs p.m.
- 1\21 Bob worked on ice
- 1\22 Bob worked on ice
- 1\23 got 4 load ice
- 1\24 Put in ice for Clark a.m.

1\26 Finished up Clark's and my ice Charles Ladd helped draw. Rufus helped 2 hrs. p.m. Clark payed me 8 cents a cake 290 cakes and \$3.00 for sawdust

1943

1\14 Fixed up ice house. Chet Pierce came out and plowed road up to MacGinnis' and on to pond [*Needed to be able to get to MacGinnis' to put in ice..*]

1\15 Took 148 cakes ice up to MacGinnis 32 cakes home

1\16 Finished MacGinnis' ice 101 cakes, 41 cakes home

[I bet it thawed enough so they didn't want to cut ice. Then, from the 21st to 23rd, it was at least 5 below, so safe to get back on the ice.]

1\26 Drew 139 cakes ice up to Clark, 20 cakes home

1\27 Finished Clark ice \$27.00, 80 cakes over to Miss Herrin's 17 home

1\28 Drew 147 cakes ice over to Miss Herrin's, 32 home, 16 up to Stanley

1\29 Charlie drew 100 cakes ice for Wright, 28 for Stanley, 16 home had 2 flat tires on truck

1\30 Charlie got the rest of Stanley's ice rest home

2\1 Oscar Brown got me a big load of sawdust today

2\2 Drew 91 cakes ice with horses

[I count 991 cakes of ice here, along with some he doesn't number, so likely 1100 or so cakes this season. I think others in the area may also have used ice.]

1944

12\18 Cleaned out ice house

1\1 Cleaned out MacGinnis ice house got some sawdust over to Mack's ice house

1\4 Began on ice Filled MacGinnis ice house 165 cakes Got 44 cakes home

1\5 Drew 288 cakes ice up to Miss Herrin Got 24 home

1\10 Drew 72 cakes ice up to Miss Herrin 360 in all

1\11 Rufus and Charlie got a load of sawdust drawing ice p.m. Got most of mine and some for Rup

1\12 Got a load of sawdust

1\13 Finished my ice and Rufus' Rup 105 Me 450 took 120 cakes up to Gould's

1\14 Rup and I got 3 load of sawdust for ice and bedding

1\18 Finished drawing Gould's ice 380 cakes in all drew 160 today

1\19 Drew ice up to Camp ice house with horses Leighton helped with his team 360

1\20 We got about 350 cakes ice up to Camp used horses today

1\21 Finished Camp ice house 836 cakes Filled Miss Willis' ice house took shanty and engine off pond. [*From Buddy Durham, 9\21\18: "Claudia and Connie confirm what I thought. There was a house sitting right on the shoreline on what is now Merriwood property. That was the Willis place. I don't know where she was from but maybe Connie knows. Pretty sure it was a summer place. Attached is a 1955 photo from the SRC waterfront, looking across the lake to that house. It is the white house in the upper left."*]

1\24 Got 3 load sawdust for Camp Moosilauke ice house

11\12 [S] Cleaned out ice house

12\19 Fixed back side of ice house

12\25 Fixed up ice house

1945

1\26 Rup, Charles and Guy cut ice a.m. drew ice up to MacGinnis' p.m. Charles drew some up here

- 1\27 worked on ice finished up MacGinnis 167 cakes Got 60 up to Miss Herrin's 2 load home Charlie got some home for himself
- 1\30 Cutting ice used all three horses today got 150 up to Miss Herrin's and 44 cakes home Charlie got some of his ice
- 1\31 Jess, Alfred and Oscar helped cut ice today I drew the ice out from the pond with horses. Stanley drew Jess and Oscar's ice Gould drew his Charlie finished up his got some for me I finished up Miss Herrin 245 cakes and mine today 235 cakes I drew over 400 off the ice today. They brought my milk cooler p.m. \$313.50 *[This must be the electric cooler, so I am not sure why he keeps cutting so much ice for home. I know that Uncle Bill and Aunt Bertha had some for their camp in the summer and perhaps Dad supplied ice to some summer folks who didn't have an ice house.]*
- 2\1 Packed the rest of my ice Rup helped Stanley get a load of sawdust and Stanley got a load p.m.
- 2\2 Charlie helped Stanley get a load of sawdust for ice
- 2\3 Took a load of sawdust from Miss Herrin over to MacGinnis
- 4\15 [S] Went over to MacGinnis' and Miss Herrin's ice houses.
- 11\11 cleaned out MacGinnis' ice house
- 11\12 fixed ice house at home a little
- 12\23 Went down and bought an ice saw rig of George Gove *[Gerald says it had a Model T engine for power.]*
- 12\28 Went down and got the ice saw rig and worked on it rest of day

1946

- 1\2 Put ice rig back together p.m.
- 1\7 Tried to start ice saw rig but couldn't get a bark out of it . . Os and Rup got some parts of Model T out to Cushman's, took engine out to Munn's
- 1\8 They got home with engine about 3 o'clock used the truck to start it with
- 1\9 Got the ice rig ready and went down and tried it a few minutes Got 148 cakes today 12 inches
- 1\10 Put ice rig on sled a.m. Cut out 150 p.m. Had to move to the upper pond only about 10 inches ice on lower pond 15 on upper pond
- 1\11 Had Howard stay home today *[He was a Sophomore at OHS. I think he was glad to be out of school.]* Clean out Miss Herrin's ice house a.m. Got 212 cakes up there today
- 1\12 Finished up Miss Herrin 378 in all Jess 132 got his ice and David 100 got his Finished up my ice about 300 Oscar 140, Charlie 100, Gould 100 got all theirs
- 1\13 Got 70 bags sawdust
- 1\14 Cutting ice began filling Camp ice house Howard helped today Brown's folks drew ice today
- 1\15 Cutting ice Eddie and John packed today Howard and I drew with the truck Brown's folks drew with 2 trucks
- 1\16 Cutting ice finished Camp put 2 load over to Miss Willis' Eddie and John cleaned out Miss Willis' ice house this morn. Brown's folks drew ice today
- 1\17 Cutting ice Guy Burnham drew 340 cakes for Bill [McKee] today Brown's folks got some p.m. Cut over 700 cakes today
- 1\18 Guy got 360 cakes today Brown 110 and Wallace [Lufkin] got 79 finished Miss Willis up today *[Francis said that once Wallace came out on the ice too fast with his truck and was heading right for the open water. Charlie got an iron bar and stopped\turned him before the went in.]*
- 1\19 Went down and loaded a load of ice for Guy and one for Wallace

- 1\20 Went over and got a load of sawdust p.m.
- 1\23 Finished ice on upper pond moved rig to lower pond and marked some
- 1\24 went down and cut ice for Camp Pemi today
- 1\26 Went down and finished up ice for Camp Pemi a.m
- 1\28 Rup and I finished covering ice

1947

- 1\6 Went down to Camp Pemi to cut ice but it wasn't clear enough
- 1\11 Howard and Francis cleared snow out of ice house
- 1\13 Went down and cut ice today for Camp Pemi Howard helped
- 1\14 Finished Camp Pemi ice 380 and 4 load sawdust today Gerald helped today Got 89 cakes ice for Charles
- 1\15 Fixed Camp ice house Cleaned out Miss Willis' ice house
- 1\16 They tried to cut ice but water on it
- 1\19 Went to look at ice but water still on it
- 1\28 Went down and began cutting ice Got 216 cakes to Camp ice house
- 1\29 Howard and Gerald helped on ice Got 360 cakes up to Camp
- 1\30 They finished up Camp ice 810
- 1\31 Put in Miss Willis' and Gardner Hays' ice Got a little for me. Leon drewed for Pug
- 2\1 Worked on ice cut 900 cakes Leon drewed ice for Stanley, one load for Jess. Charlie got his and Oscars and some for Jess, Benny Cook got some and Brown and Danny. Boys got a load of sawdust for me a.m.
- 2\2 Went down and fixed ice chisel Boys went down and got a load of sawdust for Hays' ice
- 2\3 Got ice up to MacGinnis' 130 cakes Leon drewed 93 cakes up there from me Got a little for myself
- 2\4 Finished up MacGinnis' ice and sawdust Finished up my ice and got 2 loads of sawdust for my ice Charlie and Rup got a load of sawdust for Miss Willis and Hays' ice
- 2\8 Boys went over and put sawdust on Camp ice
- 5\17 Went down to Wentworth p.m., got 3 ice boxes for Camp Pemi. *[Likely got them from the train depot.]*
- 9\11 Worked on silo some. Took Winnie out to bus. Got an icebox for MacGinnis.
- 11\18 Went to Lebanon, got a ton of ice for Miss Worthington. *[Alice and Lucy were up in November this year but had not had Dad cut them any ice, so must have bought some. I wonder if this was the first time they were in town in 1947.]*
- 12\20 Howard took the head off from the Model T *[I bet this is the ice saw rig]*
- 12\31 They filled Camp Pemi ice house today 340 cakes

1948

- 1\1 Went down and helped take radiator off ice rig. They worked on ice rig today
- 1\3 Cut out some ice a.m. They put it up to Camp p.m.
- 1\5 Cut out about 1000 cakes ice today Gerald and Howard stayed home and helped on ice
- 1\6 Cut out about 800 ice Took 125 cakes over to David and 125 up to Jess Got ice house at Camp most filled
- 1\8 Cut about 900 cakes ice Took 300 cakes up to Stanley brought 75 cakes home Brown's folks got all of their ice Danny got all of his ice Charlie, Oscar and Rup got their ice
- 1\10 Howard and Charles cleaned out Miss Herrin's ice house a.m. Boys got a load of sawdust p.m. for ice
- 1\11 Cleaned out Miss Willis' ice house

- 1\12 Had to draw oil out of ice Ford to start it up Finished Camp ice and Miss Willis Got some up to Miss Herrin's brought home 75 cakes Howard and Gerald helped today
- 1\13 Finished cutting ice Sam had 168 cakes today took 20 more to Jess and 20 more to Os Got Miss Herrin done and rest of mine
- 1\14 Packed rest of my ice got a load of sawdust for my ice and some for Miss Herrin and Rup Finished packing Miss Willis' and put sawdust on it
- 1\18 Went over and put rest of sawdust on Camp ice

1949

- 1\6 Put radiator on ice rig and had it started
- 1\31 Went out and got a piece of hose for ice rig and had a chisel fixed Had to take head off ice rig to start it
- 2\1 Went down and measured ice Fixed Camp ice house
- 2\2 Rup cleaned off some ice on pond
- 2\3 Rup and I went down and cleaned off some ice Made a dray p.m.
- 2\8 Went down and began cutting ice 11 inches Got 225 cakes up to Camp
- 2\9 Francis and Gerald helped on ice Francis got his leg hurt *[Francis says there was a conveyor to put the ice in the house. He was standing in the door, next to the conveyor, when the horses brought a load of ice and hit the bottom of the conveyor, shoving it around and knocking the top end into his knee.]*
- 2\10 Finished Camp ice 1000 cakes Gerald helped a.m.
- 2\11 Got some more ice with truck Brake froze up on truck in water
2\11\49 East Orford Woodsville *Twin State News-Times*
•Glenn Pease is cutting ice on Upper Baker lake *[lake? C'mon, Mae, it's only a pond!]*
Ice is only 11 inches thick.
- 2\12 Took Francis down to Plymouth to have x-ray on his knee no cracked bone
- 2\14 Took some more ice up to Jess, Charlie, Oscar and some for me Brown's folks got some ice today
- 2\16 Rup took Francis to Dr. last night
- 2\19 Cutting ice took 2 loads over to David some up to Jess and Os and some for me Brown's folks got some
- 2\21 Finished ice put 250 cakes in silo Rup and Gerald got a load of sawdust *[Francis says this was the square, temporary silo, just below where his house is today. This is the one shown in the background of the picture of me in the tater field across the road from the house.]*
- 2\22 Packed rest of ice Got 2 loads of sawdust
[1949 seems to be the last year Dad cut ice for either Camp Moosilauke or Camp Pemi.]

1950

- 1\28 Got ice rig out and got it started
- 1\29 Went down and cut a hole in ice 15 inches
- 1\30 Took ice rig down on pond a.m. a little water on ice
- 2\1 Cut 640 cakes ice and got 4 load home and one up to Jess Brown's got 4 load p.m. Harry and Charlie helped
- 2\2 They got one load ice home 70 cakes 70 cakes for David 35 for Jess Got a load of sawdust
- 2\3 Went down to cut ice but wind blowed too hard Went up to Pike to get a refrigerator for Charlie
- 2\4 Cut over 900 cakes ice took a load up to Jess a load to David 140 3 load home

2\5 Packed a load of ice Boys got a load of sawdust put some on ice rest for bedding
2\6 Finished ice today about 400 cakes in silo Brown's folks got rest of their ice Oscar 500
Alson 300 David 140 Jess about 150 Cut out 400 today Ames from Warren had 100
cakes
2\11 Howard and Francis got 2 loads sawdust finished covering ice and had some for bedding
11\18 Fixed ice house

1951

[No mention of ice in Ma's diary but there were many days she didn't write.]

1952 *[They are buying ice in Lebanon, so cutting their own must be over.]*

6\25 Glenn, Arthur & Les went to Lebanon and got a load of ice.

7\25 Glenn & Arthur went to Lebanon after ice about 9

Camp Moosilauke - on south end of Upper Baker Pond

Camp Pemi - on south shore of Lower Baker Pond

Oscar and Alson Brown - lived on the farm just east of the turn to Atwell Hill

Guy Burnham - Glenn's nephew, from West Rumney

Bert Clark - lived the third farm west of the Pease\Sherburn farm. Had been owned by Henry
Pease, Danny Gould, then Mel Thomson and now Peter Thomson

Alfred [Currier] - son of Jess

Jess [Currier] - owned Mt. Cube House

Leon Chase - brother of Warren

Pug - Maurice Chase, son of Warren

Rufus [Chase] - son of Warren, worked as hired hand for Dad for 10-15 years, until he died in
1952

Stanley [Chase] - son of Warren, owned

Warren Chase - father of Rufus, Maurice and Stanley

Bob [Donnelly] - Glenn's nephew

Leslie [Donnelly] - Glenn's nephew

Jay [Donnelly] - Glenn's brother-in-law

Fillian - likely Alphonse Fillian, a logger Dad worked with\for in the 1930s

Gould -[Danny and Dot] - bought Clark place

Miss Herrin [Alice] - one of two maiden ladies who bought Mrs. Baer's place.

Charlie [Ladd] - brother of Oscar

Os [Oscar Ladd] - brother of Charlie

Wallace [Lufkin] owned first farm on Rt. 10 north of Archertown corner

Henry MacGinnis - had a summer place on the hill north of Upper Baker Pond

Bill [McKee] - lived in West Rumney

David [Tatham] - Ma's brother-in-law, lived on Atwell Hill

Miss Willis - had a summer place or perhaps a kids camp at Upper Baker Pond

Miss Worthington [Lucy] - one of two maiden ladies who bought Mrs. Baer's place.



Ammey Mabel - Arthur 5/47

Note ice tongs hanging under back room window. Handy when going to the icehouse to get a cake of ice for the icebox. [*Handsome little devil @ 9 months, wasn't I? ;-0*]



“Ice Harvest On Lower Baker Pond, 1936”, page 33, Camp Pemigewassett The First 100 Years.

I don't have Dad's diary for 1936, so don't know if he was cutting for Pemi that year. It is interesting to see the size of the sled they used and how much ice they put on. There is also a hand ice saw and an ice chisel in the photo but don't know what the bucket would be used for.